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THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The services of the driver will not be required during all the 24 hours. Moreover, he is off duty during meal-time four times a day."

SRI P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN :—" It is only at meal-time that the driver is off duty. Therefore, he is not able to go out anywhere. In view of this, will the Government consider the question of appointing two more drivers? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The driver is provided with a room in the quarters intended for the nursing orderlies."

Location of the Headquarters of the Ramanathapuram district.

* 368 *Q*.—SRI V. V. RAMASAMI : Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there was any proposal to shift the headquarters of Ramanathapuram from Madurai;

(*b*) whether any representation was made by Virudhunagar Municipal Council to shift the said headquarters to Virudhunagar; and

(*c*) if so, what orders were passed by the Government?

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" (*a*) Representations to shift the headquarters were made on several occasions in the past.

" (*b*) Yes. In May 1946.

" (*c*) As a change of district headquarters is beset with numerous problems and difficulties and involves considerable expenditure, the Government decided that the proposal should wait for sometime."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN :—" May I tell the Hon. the Chief Minister . . ."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Is the hon. Member giving any information to the Hon. the Chief Minister or, is he putting a question? "

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN :—" My question will follow it, Sir. May I ask the Hon. the Chief Minister whether the Government consider Virudhunagar to be a suitable place for locating the headquarters of the Ramanathapuram district and may I inform him that Virudhunagar which is suggested by the Virudhunagar Municipality, is not at all suitable for locating the headquarters of that district? May I also tell him that Sivaganga or Manamathurai is a suitable place for locating the headquarters of the Ramanathapuram district? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member is giving information."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN :—" When the question of shifting the headquarters of the Ramanathapuram district is taken up, will the Hon. the Chief Minister consider the suitability of Sivaganga and Manamathurai for that purpose? "

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THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" The objections and the recommendations will be kept in mind when the question is taken up."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" In view of the conflicting reports from two hon. Members of the locality, may I suggest that the headquarters be shifted to Madras? " (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" Another alternative is that it may remain where it is now."

The village ooranies of former Pudukkottai State.

* 369 *Q.*—SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) the authorities now exercising jurisdiction over the village ooranies that belonged to the Revenue Department of the former Pudukkottai State before merger ; and

(*b*) from what date did the present Revenue Department in Pudukkottai division, Tiruchirappalli district, cease to exercise control?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" (*a*) The village ooranies lying within the panchayat board areas are under the control of the respective panchayat boards and those lying in non-panchayat areas are under the control of the Tiruchirappalli district board.

" (*b*) From August 1951."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" Is it a fact that on account of the confusion of ownership of the ooranies, the watchmen have not been paid for months together, if not for years, and that they have begun to relax their vigilance leading to the misuse of these ooranies? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" I think the watchmen were not paid previously, but now that the panchayat board and the district board are in control of them, the pay will be disbursed. I cannot exactly say whether it has been actually disbursed."

Maternity benefit for women workers.

* 370 *Q.*—SRI T. C. NARAYANA NAMBIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state whether there is any proposal to amend the provisions of the Madras Maternity Benefit Act of 1935 so as to enable women workers employed in the non-seasonal factories in the State entitled for the maternity benefit to get full wages instead of annas 8 as stipulated in section 5 of the Act? 2–30 p.m.

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" There is a proposal to amend the Madras Maternity Benefit Act, 1935, to remove the distinction between 'seasonal' and 'non-seasonal